

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
California Field Office

WEEK ENDING: October 23, 2005
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WEATHER



At the start of the week, a strong low pressure system was moving over southern California. This vigorous system spawned several severe thunderstorms in the Los Angeles area and caused mudslides in the mountains. By Tuesday, the low was shifting slowly eastward with some showers lingering over the southland. A high pressure ridge began to build over the western U.S. by midweek, and temperatures began to warm up over southern California. In the north, the week began with dry and warm weather over the area, but temperatures cooled by midweek as a result of the influence of the low pressure system over southern California. By the weekend, temperatures in the north began to rebound to above normal levels. In the south, however, an onshore flow brought cooler marine air to the region, and temperatures in that part of the State remained cool.

FIELD CROPS

Field preparation was ongoing for fall planting of **barley**, **oat**, and **wheat** crops. **Rice** harvest continued; several counties noted that rice harvest was winding down and the disposing of rice straw had commenced. **Cotton** harvest was in full swing with growers picking, shredding, and disking fields. Imperial County reported that significant rain at the beginning of the week halted cotton harvest and ginning. **Sweet potato** harvest was ongoing. Field **corn** harvest continued, and green chop was being stored for silage production. The **sugar beet** harvest was ongoing, and a few fields were being treated for insects. Many **alfalfa** hay fields continued to be cut, windrowed, raked and baled while other fields were irrigated. **Vinseed** harvest was winding down.

FRUIT CROPS

Raisin **grape** harvest and drying was nearly complete. Wine and juice grape harvest continued with good yields reported. Harvested varieties included Carignane, French Colombard, Barbera, Rubired, and Carnelian. Table grape harvest also continued. Stone fruit harvest has slowed, with only Angelino and Flavor Fall **plums** reported harvested in the San Joaquin Valley. Post harvest irrigation was ongoing in tree crops and vineyards. **Blueberries** were planted, and **strawberry** plants were thriving. **Fig** harvest neared completion, with good yields reported. The **apple** harvest continued, with Granny Smith, Fuji, and Gala varieties picked. Hachiya variety **persimmons** were beginning to show better color and maturity. **Kiwis**, Asian **pears**, and **pomegranates** were harvested. Chandler **pummelos** and Satsuma **mandarins** were picked and packed. Valencia **oranges** were packed. Navels were ready for picking in Kern County, but rains delayed the harvest. **Olive** harvest continued. Early variety **avocados** were harvested in Tulare County. Grounds were fumigated for winter orchard planting.

NUT CROPS

Almond, **chestnut**, and **walnut** harvest continued. **Pistachio** harvest neared completion. **Pecan** harvest was about to commence in the San Joaquin Valley.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Spinach was ready for cutting. **Lettuce** fields were being irrigated. Fresh market and processing **broccoli** harvest began. Harvest also began in **green bean** fields in the San Joaquin Valley. **Melon** harvest neared completion, and **pumpkins** were ready for harvest. Fall **asparagus**, **garlic**, **squash**, sweet **corn**, and **tomatoes** continued to be harvested.

LIVESTOCK

Rangeland pastures were in dry condition. Beef cows continued to move from higher elevation summer pastures to winter foothill pastures where there was abundant dry grass. Protein supplements were still being fed to cattle. Fall calving of beef cows was ongoing. Sheep were grazing on cantaloupe fields and retired farm land in the central area. Feeder lambs continued to arrive in the Imperial Valley for the winter pasture season and were grazing on sudan grass, bermuda grass, and alfalfa pastures. Heavy rain in the Imperial Valley caused some disruption to lambs on pastures and muddied cattle feedlots. Cooler temperatures were boosting milk production throughout the State.

This report is available the first workday of the week after 1:00 PDT at www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/pubs.htm.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 10/23/05

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 10/23/05	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 10/23/05	January 1 - 10/23/05	Week Ending 10/23/05	July 1 - 10/23/05	July 1 - 10/23/05	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	51	-3	65	42	11	0	0.04	2.33	2.89	37.53
Ukiah	62	2	90	42	1,423	1,454	0.00	0.05	2.15	37.96
Santa Rosa	61	0	87	44	771	922	0.00	0.11	1.76	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	62	1	83	50	509	443	0.00	0.20	0.98	19.70
San Jose	64	2	85	52	1,278	1,330	0.00	0.11	0.90	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	1,585	1,456	0.00	0.00	0.85	14.21
Salinas AP	60	-1	86	46	410	431	0.01	0.11	0.73	12.44
Monterey FAA	57	-2	81	46	126	145	0.00	0.05	1.87	18.72
King City	62	1	83	43	1,223	1,042	0.00	0.03	0.57	11.44
Paso Robles AP	62	1	85	41	1,612	1,552	0.00	0.10	0.70	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	65	2	91	44	2,570	2,501	0.00	0.24	2.33	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	65	1	92	46	2,470	2,605	0.00	0.34	1.94	22.29
Chico AFS	66	5	92	47	2,330	2,043	0.00	0.14	1.62	26.32
Marysville	65	1	86	45	2,245	2,432	0.00	0.15	1.27	21.04
Sacramento AP	64	1	83	48	1,943	1,927	0.00	0.10	1.00	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	66	2	86	48	2,312	2,209	0.01	0.69	0.89	13.95
Fresno	67	2	82	52	2,946	2,784	0.00	0.04	0.66	10.60
Bakersfield	67	0	81	54	3,012	3,101	0.17	0.28	0.45	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	59	-1	76	46	398	410	0.64	0.72	0.65	12.36
Santa Barbara	58	-4	67	46	543	734	0.82	1.25	1.04	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	958	910	0.00	0.00	0.67	14.38
Los Angeles	64	-6	72	54	1,957	2,294	0.98	1.31	0.68	14.77
Riverside	65	-2	81	49	2,481	2,327	1.26	1.65	0.64	9.58
San Diego AP	64	-3	69	57	1,574	1,698	0.45	0.69	0.61	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	57	2	81	37	1,663	1,552	0.04	0.85	0.71	5.37
Lancaster	62	1	81	44	2,372	2,343	1.77	2.58	0.67	6.92
Daggett AP	67	-1	86	51	3,728	3,896	0.06	1.13	1.26	3.93
Thermal AP	71	0	91	56	4,852	4,742	2.02	2.08	1.10	3.16
Blythe	72	-1	89	54	5,210	5,237	0.84	2.20	1.68	3.60
Imperial	71	-2	91	54	5,016	4,965	0.02	1.81	1.04	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	49	3	75	22	557	296	0.00	0.68	1.83	12.01
Mt. Shasta	53	4	75	33	666	446	0.00	0.71	3.13	37.02
Blue Canyon	56	4	71	44	880	574	0.00	0.85	5.23	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	1,308	1,090	0.00	0.00	3.13	37.05

Normal is defined as average over the 30-year period 1961 through 1990. Dashes (- -) in Average Week Ending and Departure from Normal columns mean less than five days reporting, while in High and Low columns mean no days reporting.

Weekly summary provided by the Western Regional Climate Center with data reported by the National Weather Service. When data are quality controlled by the National Climatic Data Center, the accumulated growing degree day and precipitation values are updated.